

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 06800 211848Z

62

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 INT-08

SCEM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15

PRS-01 COME-00 XMB-07 L-03 H-03 OPIC-12 RSR-01 /179 W
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R 211514Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 717

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN CRUDE SALES: PERMSEC WARNS AGAINST MIDDLEMEN

REF: LAGOS 6703

1. IN AUGUST 17 LUNCH ADDRESS TO NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JOURNALISTS, PHILIP ASIODU (PERMANENT SECRETARY IN MINISTRY MINES AND POWER AND PROBABLY MOST INFLUENTIAL FORCE IN NIGERIAN OIL POLICIES) WARNED AGAINST CRUDE OIL MIDDLEMEN. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, ASIODU SAID THAT IT IS POLICY OF NIGERIAN NATIONAL OIL CORPORATION TO SELL CRUDE OIL DIRECT TO REFINERY INTERESTS AND THERE IS NO ROOM FOR MIDDLEMEN. ASIODU REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT IT IS NATIONAL DISGRACE FOR WELL-MEANING NIGERIAN CITIZENS TO ROAM AMERICA, EUROPE AND JAPAN OFFERING TO SELL NIGERIAN CRUDE OIL AND THUS EMBARRASSING THEMSELVES, NNOC AND FMG.

2. COMMENT: AS REPORTED, ASIODU'S REMARKS COVERED ALL MIDDLEMEN, AND IMPLIED NNOC POLICY OF DIRECT SALES TO REFINERS OR OTHER END USERS. HOWEVER, HIS CRITICISM
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 06800 211848Z

SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AT NIGERIAN MIDDLEMEN, AND AS

REPORTED REFTEL, NNOC HAVE SHOWN WILLINGNESS DEAL WITH
EXPATRIATE TRADING FIRMS BUYING FOR OWN ACCOUNT.
REINHARDT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LAGOS06800
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730825/aaaaaskw.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LAGOS 6703
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIGERIAN CRUDE SALES: PERMSEC WARNS AGAINST MIDDLEMEN
TAGS: ENRG, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005